

# *commUNICAtion*

*Newsletter of the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe*

## **10th Anniversary Edition**

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### **Message from the President**

The celebration of UNICA's tenth anniversary is approaching. It will be celebrated in December during the General Assembly at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). We are very happy that ULB has invited us for this Assembly, as UNICA has its roots there and was for a long time part of ULB. Of course many things have changed in the ten years of our existence along with the increasing number of members and the development of activities. Anyhow, the main ideas for the network as they were formulated ten years ago are still valid, aiming at creating a good basis for collaboration between important universities in the capitals of Europe.

The Steering Committee, which started its mandate in 2000, has worked towards strengthening even further the contacts within the network and for attracting new members. At this moment the universities of Latvia, Iceland and Ljubljana have asked to join the network. During the first part of this year, I as president of the network, have visited universities in Brussels, Helsinki, Paris, Madrid and Rome. Members of the Steering Committee have visited other universities in the capitals of Europe and have participated in meetings, like the CRE-conference in Trondheim in June.

One very sad event for us all occurred in April when UNICA loses Professor Marie-Christine Adam, Vice-Rector at Université Libre de Bruxelles. She had been a member of the Steering Committee for over four years. In her work with us she was always constructive, full of new ideas and most devoted to UNICA. She became our friend and we miss her very much. In order to help in this difficult situation, the newly

elected rector of ULB, Professor Pierre de Maret, has promised to take part in the work of the Steering Committee until we can have a formal election at the General Assembly. At the same time our new Secretary General, Ms. Sonia N. Mykletun, will be officially elected and we will also vote on the membership of those universities in the capitals of Europe who have approached UNICA.

Among our priorities for this year, it should be mentioned that we have continued to focus on the issue of racism and xenophobia, which was our main theme during the scientific segment of the General Assembly in 1999. We have proposed and sent out a statement to our member universities. Depending on the reactions, we will put this Mission Statement on Equal Opportunities forward and ask for its adoption at this year's General Assembly. We will also then give a short report on the standpoint of our universities on the Bologna Declaration, as we have asked them to express their views on the declaration.

Special emphasis has been given this year to the themes concerning European identity and ideas at the meeting in May at the University of Athens and in November at the Freie Universität Berlin. This conference, with special focus on the students' views, is presently actively prepared and we are most eager to see the results. We have also developed our contacts with other networks inside and outside Europe, by participating in the American network for capital cities LINKS's meeting in April and by signing a memorandum of understanding with SECID (South East Consortium for International Development).

The new millennium has started with a year full of activities for UNICA, where many members have actively contributed to the program. We are most grateful for all these initiatives and hope that they will continue in the same constructive way, thus helping the development of the UNICA network.

Gunnel Engwall,  
President of UNICA  
[gunnel.engwall@fraitu.su.se](mailto:gunnel.engwall@fraitu.su.se)

## **UNICA 10th ANNIVERSARY at ULB, Brussels**

On the 14, 15 and 16 December 2000, the Université Libre de Bruxelles will welcome the Member Universities of the UNICA Network in order to celebrate, on the occasion of the annual General Assembly, the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Network.

This would be a good opportunity for each of us to take an objective look at the efforts that have taken place over the past decade, with neither an accommodating nor a negative attitude, and look forward to setting-up new directions of work.

Two special events already deserve to be noted:

1) A seminar on the topic "Relations University / City", on Friday 15 December in the afternoon, will give us the opportunity to hear three UNICA colleagues, Professors Thys-Clément (Pro-Rector, Université Libre de Bruxelles), Braun (Vice-President, Freie Universität Berlin) and Valenzuela (Professor of Geography, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), as well as two experts who do not belong to the Network, Professors Goddard (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Newcastle) and Ritz (President, Pôle Universitaire de Bordeaux). Professor Vandermotten (Université Libre de Bruxelles) will be the rapporteur.

An official representative of the DG "Research" of the European Commission, in charge of the section "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage" within the 5th Framework Programme of R & D, will also take part in the session.

Their speeches should constitute excellent ground for a debate with the participants and stimulate the emergence of joint actions in the fields of urban research, studies on relevant topics or integrated courses.

2) A speech by the European Commissioner for Research, Philippe Busquin, who will present to us, during the closing dinner, the major guidelines of the 6th Framework Programme of R & D, as well as his own views on European Research: "New prospects for European Research - The territorial dimension".

These three days in Brussels will also give everyone the opportunity to meet the newly elected Rector of the ULB, Professor Pierre de Maret, Anthropologist and Archaeologist, whose enthusiasm for UNICA can already be guaranteed: he is the one who, in September/October 1989, conceived the idea of the creation of a network made up with capital universities!

We look forward to seeing all of you, full of innovative ideas on UNICA's future and potential joint projects.

[Chantal Zoller](#)

## **Secretary General's Corner**

As we approach our 10th Anniversary, UNICA is becoming increasingly visible towards the European Commission and related institutions involved in higher education. In addition, it continues to expand its services to our members. With Brussels as our headquarters, we can offer our member universities information and lobbying services with the Commission and establish and maintain close ties in order to support our network's activities.

The Commission has invited UNICA to participate on two recent occasions as consultants for its educational programmes. Firstly, we played a central role, together with other key institutional networks, on the Planning Committee for FORUM 2000 where the main theme was "Responding to challenges for European Universities". Secondly, in July, I was pleased to represent our network when the Commission requested us to act as consultants in various workshops, together with other European associations and social partners, on the second phase of SOCRATES. Of particular importance also is our contact with the Commission's "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage" Programme through which we hope to build stronger links between our member universities and their capitals, targeting joint actions and future opportunities on relevant urban issues. This increased visibility has resulted in preliminary negotiations with European partners about future dissemination projects for next year, e.g. Conference on "Multilingualism and the New Learning Environments", in Berlin, in June 2001.

At the LINKS Conference in Richmond, Virginia, USA, in April, (linking public universities and state capitals), I was able to present UNICA's activities at a round-table session to university colleagues and public officials who expressed interest in future collaboration. This resulted in the Memorandum of Understanding with SECID (South East Consortium for International Development) providing more opportunities for project cooperation between our European members and international university actors.

Finally, the Commission at the Lisbon summit placed Higher Education and Research very high on Europe's

future agenda, and an upcoming challenge for UNICA will be to find its role in this field and work towards making Europe more competitive on the global scene. We invite our members to join us, at our 10th Anniversary celebration, in fruitful discussions on further collaboration in building a stronger Europe. The UNICA Secretariat is at your disposal and we look forward to serving you.

Sonia Mykletun, Secretary General

## **Marie Christine Adam left us**

Professor Marie-Christine Adam, member of the UNICA Steering Committee for the past four years, passed away on 26 April 2000. She was born in Argentina and came to Belgium as a young teenager, where she quickly learned French and was an exceptional student. She took a first degree in Economics at ULB and then continued her studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she received a Ph.D. Since 1990 she has been a full professor in Economics at ULB, where she also held the positions of President of the School of Commerce Solvay and Vice-Rector for International Affairs.

She was an intelligent and dynamic person who often displayed a good sense of humour. Because of the constructive approach she brought to her work, she was an ideal member of the Steering Committee. We will always remember her realistic and enthusiastic work for UNICA.

Gunnel Engwall

## **EU RESEARCH CONTRACTS SEMINAR, BRUSSELS, 29-30 MAY 2000**

A seminar for officers dealing with European research contracts was organised by UNICA in Brussels on 29-30 May 2000. The seminar was open for staff from UNICA member universities, i.e.

- European research officers,
- Officers dealing with legal matters for the universities,
- Financial officers and auditors

The programme for the seminar was set up by a planning committee with members from Universiteit van Amsterdam, Université Libre de Bruxelles, University of Copenhagen, University College London and Stockholm University. The first day focused on issues related to the current Framework Programme Five, while the second day looked forward to FP6 and beyond, using Commissioner Busquin's paper "Towards a European Research Area" as basis for discussion.

The 35 participants contributed with their extensive direct experience of Framework funding to lively discussions covering a vast range of issues. The hottest debate followed the very interesting presentation of Dr. Eduard Rille from the European Commission, Head of Unit in DG Research. Dr. Rille spoke about eligible costs and auditing under FP5 which afterwards provoked a discussion about costing modalities for universities in the next framework programme.

The other speakers at the Seminar included:

- Stina Bishop, Legal Counsel, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
- Franco Cozzani, European Commission, Research DG - AP 2
- Marianne Levin, Professor at Stockholm University, Faculty of Law, and Secretary General for the Nordic Cooperation of the Industrial Property Associations
- Eduard Rille, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General, Science, Research and Development.
- Richard Tomlin, Director, Centre for Higher Education Research, University of Newcastle
- Prof. Carl Christian Tscherning, University of Copenhagen, Niels Bohr Institute for Astronomy, Physics and Geophysics.

The seminar was a success and we are planning to organise another one in 2001.

[Åke Nagrelius](#), [Ilse Vickers](#)

## **Administrators Mobility Programme**

### **A Report on the Study Visit of Frank Gladines, International Relations Attaché at Vrije Universiteit Brussel to the University of Helsinki (Helsingin Yliopisto) from 21 to 27 November 1999 (Shortened version)**

My actual stay at the Helsingin Yliopisto lasted one week, from 20 to 27 November 1999. The official programme began with Anna Luikko, Director of the International Relations Office, introducing me to her staff (conclusion: a very welcoming and friendly environment with charming people). I learned that the office structure was well considered with a logical and thematic division of administrative tasks. There also was a reception desk for students, which doesn't exist at the VUB. Anna Luikko and Markus Laitinen had developed quite a busy programme for my study visit. I had no less than 23 individual encounters with administrators and academics from different departments and faculties on a variety of themes in the broader field of internationalisation: ECTS, cross-border student and academic staff exchange, development cooperation, summer schools, dissemination of information, etc. This gave me an excellent opportunity to discuss and, most of all, to compare all these issues with the situation and practices in my home university.

I was particularly impressed by the daily management of internationalisation, which is organised in a way that every faculty has its own full-time administrator dealing with internationalisation, which of course is an enormous asset, since these persons are familiar with their faculty (a central office doesn't have this advantage); these faculty 'Secretaries for International Affairs' meet on a weekly basis with people from the central international relations office, resulting in a mutual awareness of who-is-doing-what and leading to a uniform but still decentralised way of working.

I talked with Markus Laitinen about the problems regarding the institutional implementation of ECTS, the information gathering for the Information Packages, the efficiency of ECTS (actual application, use of ECTS-documents, departmental or central responsibilities, in short: does it work as it should work, and if not, the concrete problems which hinder the process and how these problems are dealt with).

I had a very interesting meeting with Professor Michael Cowen (HU - Institute of Development Studies) on Development Cooperation, a theme I have particular interest in as it covers 30% of my current job at VUB.

Furthermore, I had an interesting conversation with Mr. Tatu Laurila, responsible for the Helsinki Summer School 2000 project, interesting because the VUB will also be organising a similar activity, the Brussels 2000 Summer University, also in the framework of being, like Helsinki, one of the Cultural Capitals of Europe for the year 2000. It goes without saying that due to these apparent similarities, we could learn from each other, which in fact we did.

Other encounters and meetings included discussions on other common interests/issues with regard to International Relations: - I talked with Markus Laitinen about the software he has developed for the better management of the International Relations Office's extensive administration and the possibilities to use his know-how to develop something similar for the other network-universities or even to purchase the package; I had meetings with administrators involved in the exchange of researchers, of students, also with someone responsible for the accommodation for foreign visitors and students; I also had the opportunity to visit the HU-Information and Counselling office, which I found was very professionally organised.

Finally, I had a very interesting visit to CIMO, the Finnish national and government sponsored Centre for International Mobility. CIMO, whose main concern is cross-border mobility worldwide, is actually an information and support centre for institutions and students who can rely on quite an extended database of national educational systems and specific information about universities all over the globe and on a skilled and extensive staff. Very impressive and enviable, I must admit.

Furthermore, on Tuesday 23 November there was the Rector's Reception for international students, to which I was invited and which I attended with great interest and enthusiasm. A very good initiative.

In general, I may conclude that this vocational study visit has been a very valuable asset, not only for my résumé, but indeed a very useful contribution to my professional experience and attitude. I can recommend UNICA's mobility programme to anyone involved in International Relations - not only the newcomers - and to those who are eager to open a door to the world. Therefore I sincerely hope that the programme will survive.

I would finally like to thank UNICA for making this study visit possible and the Helsingin Yliopisto for its hospitality.

Frank Gladines

If you wish to apply for the Administrator Mobility Programme (UNICA offers a 300 Euros grant), please visit [our site](#).

## **A Guide to European Union Funding for NGOs “Your Way through the Labyrinth” 6th edition (207 pages)**

The guide will make EU funding more accessible by giving you the opportunity to improve your understanding of the EU budget. It also provides an introduction to the other European funding opportunities that are available to NGOs.

Whilst there are a number of different sources of EU funding, accessing the funds can appear daunting and complicated – the fully revised 6th edition will simplify the whole process.

The guide provides you with practical and clear information on how to apply for funding, including:

- The Vademecum on Grant Management-explained;
- A new chapter which gives advice on how to access foundation and trust funding which includes profiles, funding success stories and contact information for over 20 foundations sponsoring projects in Europe.
- A full analysis of the new EU Structural funds regime – 2000 to 2006;
- An up-to-date line-by-line description of all EU budgets for NGOs including external funding;
- Each chapter includes vital contact information, which has been fully revised to take into account the re-organisation of the European Commission.

If you are interested in buying a copy of this guide (price is 45 Euros), please contact: Isabelle Dambrun, ECAS, 53 rue de la Concorde, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: +32 (0)2 548 04 90 Fax: +32 (0)2 548 04 99 Email: [admin@ecas.org](mailto:admin@ecas.org) Website: <http://www.ecas.org/>

ECAS (Euro Citizen Action Service) is an independent non-profit service providing advice for NGOs on European funding and lobbying.

## NEWS

The Université Libre de Bruxelles has elected **Prof. Pierre de Maret** as its new Rector. He takes office on 2 October 2000.

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel has elected **Prof. Dr. Benjamin Van Camp** (former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy) as its new Rector. He takes office on 2 October 2000.

### **UNICA's EUNIRO gets EU Funding**

The European Commission has sent UNICA the official contract and approval for funding for the Project EUNIRO- "Enhancing University International Relations Offices". The funding secured from the EC is 55 000 Euros and will cover the survey of IR Offices and the Think Tank Workshop that will follow. Now the work begins for the Technical Committee to prepare the survey that will involve all UNICA members, since there will be an Internet-version of the on-the-spot survey for everyone to fill in. In fact participation in the Think Tank workshop will be conditional to completing the survey questionnaire!

The project will be coordinated by Dr Andreas Mallouppas, University of Cyprus, who had the original idea, with the help of the UNICA Secretariat. UNICA's partner in the project is the European Association for International Education (EAIE). The findings of the survey will be presented at the 2001 EAIE meeting in Tampere, Finland. The project's duration is from December 2000 to December 2001.

This is a good example of a collaborative project involving all the UNICA members. With the project's approval we now have the challenge of doing the work!!

[Andreas Mallouppas](#)

**Frank Gladines**, currently International Relations Attaché at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, has been promoted to Institutional Quality Assurance Coordinator at the VUB's Educational Affairs Department as of October 2000. The UNICA Secretariat wishes to thank Frank for his contribution towards the network!

**Mark Pickerill** from University College London will no longer attend UNICA meetings because of a change in his job responsibilities. Our new contact at UCL for International Relations matters is Carol Pearce, Head of the International Office (email [c.pearce@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.pearce@ucl.ac.uk)). The UNICA Secretariat wishes to thank Mark for his involvement in the network and we wish to welcome Carol Pearce to join us in our work!

The **Forum 2000 report**, which is now published, will soon be available on the European Commission's DG Education and Culture web site.

**53rd Bi-annual CRE Conference**, Trondheim, Norway, 8-9 June 2000. Arthur Mettinger, Vice-Rector of Educational and International Affairs at the University of Vienna and UNICA Steering Committee member, organised an informal lunch meeting for UNICA rectors to update them on UNICA's activities. A lunch meeting will also be organised in Cracow.

European Commission's **DG Research Programme on "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development" - Call for Tenders** - Key Action 4: "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage" hopes to publish a call for tenders in mid-November 2000. For more information please visit: <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/>

We would like to congratulate **Professor Gunnel Engwall**, Vice Rector at the Stockholm University and president of the UNICA network, who has received his Majesty the King of Sweden's Medal for important achievements in the field of higher education and research.

We would like to congratulate **Professor Carlos Seoane**, Vice Rector at the Universidad Complutense Madrid and member of the UNICA Steering Committee, on being awarded the National Research Medal by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

**UNITE** is a discussion mailing list (like the EAIE discussion list) about EU Research for academia on the 5th and 6th Framework Programmes. If you want more information about it, or if you want to join please contact: <mailto:UNITE@bohlander.demon.nl> and for more information visit [http://listserv.surfnet.nl/archives/unite\\_messages.html](http://listserv.surfnet.nl/archives/unite_messages.html)  
[http://listserv.surfnet.nl/archives/unite\\_discuss.html](http://listserv.surfnet.nl/archives/unite_discuss.html)

The UNICA **Working Group on Racism and Xenophobia**, chaired by Jeroen Doomernik, will submit an application for the EC budget line B5-803 for 2001. Project partners include the Universities of Amsterdam, Vienna, Roma Tre, Stockholm, Madrid (UAM), Lausanne, Warsaw, Warwick and Neufchatel.

**Arthur Mettinger**, Vice-Rector of Educational and International Affairs at the University of Vienna and UNICA Steering Committee member, chaired the session on "New Learning Environments" at the **Thematic Network Project Dissemination Conference**, held in Brussels on 23 September 2000. Other sessions included European Citizenship, Mobility and Co-operation: The Needs of Students and of the Labour Market, Training in Translation and Interpreting, and Education of Teachers and Trainers for a Multilingual Europe. For more information : ELC European Language Council - Professor Wolfgang Mackiewicz or Sietze Looyenga, Assistant: [elc@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:elc@zedat.fu-berlin.de) or visit the ELC/CEL Website: <http://www.fu-berlin.de/elc>

**European PhD on Social Representations & Communication** (University of Roma I La Sapienza) approved as **Marie Curie Training Site**.

The European Union DG XII has designated the European PhD on Social Representations and Communication as Marie Curie Training Site. The main objectives of this programme are to increase the human potential of research and strengthen socio-economical knowledge.

As a centre of excellence, the Euro PhD on S.R. & C. is in a very special position, being the only European network in the field of social psychology, recognised to deliver European doctoral training and to assign substantial financial support for the study abroad not only to the participants admitted in the Euro PhD programme, but also to a selected number of other young researchers enrolled in their own national doctoral programme outside the network.

Announcements: <http://www.europhd.psi.uniroma1.it/>

**The 12th Annual Conference of the EAIE** will take place in **Leipzig** from 29 November to 3 December 2000. Ulla Renqvist, Chair, (Stockholm University), Helene Ullerø (University Of Oslo), Kees Kleywegt (University of Amsterdam) and Eva Lack (Freie Universität Berlin) will organise a session on “Students as Agents of Internationalisation”. Sonia Mykletun, UNICA Secretary General, will be the rapporteur. Jeroen Doomernik (University of Amsterdam), Chair of the UNICA Working Group on Racism and Xenophobia, has also been invited to give a talk on racism and xenophobia in universities and on the UNICA Working Group's activities and recommendations.

**New members:** The Universities of Ljubljana and Iceland would like to join the UNICA Network in 2001 and they have been invited to attend the General Assembly in December 2000. Other universities have also approached UNICA for possible membership and a Membership Criteria Committee has been established to evaluate these applications.

UNICA participated in the Commission’s “**Consultation of European Associations and Social Partners (Education) 10-11 July 2000: Presentation of the Workshops**”. Besides an invitation to work in a plenary session, participants were engaged in workshops on Languages, Lifelong learning, The Associations and SOCRATES programme, and East-West dialogue.

The UNICA **Administrator Mobility Programme** is still open to 5 participants in 2000 and UNICA will provide each applicant with a grant of 300 Euros. For more information click [here](#).

For more information on **SECID** (South East Consortium for International Development) please visit <http://www.secid.org/>

If you wish to contribute to the next issue of ‘*commUNICAtion*’, please send your article to the [General Secretariat in Brussels](#).

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